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Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1283

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The practice of medicine is restricted to individuals who have completed the required training and fulfilled the licensing requirements imposed by the State. Diagnostic ultrasound is a modality that is to be used by licensed medical practitioners for appropriate indications because of the potential risks associated with its use. The American College of Radiology (ACR), in its policy statement regarding ultrasound examinations, states the following:

The ultimate judgment regarding the propriety of any specific procedure or course of action must be made by the physician or medical physicist in light of all the circumstances presented.

(ACR: PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF PELVIC ULTRASOUND, Revised 2009)

ACOG has endorsed the "Prudent Use" position statement issued by The American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) discouraging the use of ultrasound for nonmedical purposes (e.g. solely to create keepsake photographs or videos):

The AIUM advocates the responsible use of diagnostic ultrasound. The AIUM strongly discourages the non-medical use of ultrasound for psychosocial or entertainment purposes. The use of either two-dimensional (2D) or three-dimensional (3D) ultrasound to only view the fetus, obtain a picture of the fetus or determine the fetal gender without a medical indication is inappropriate and contrary to responsible medical practice. Although there are no confirmed biological effects on patients caused by exposures from present diagnostic ultrasound instruments, the possibility exists that such biological effects may be identified in the future. Thus ultrasound should be used in a prudent manner to provide medical benefit to the patient. (AIUM:PRUDENT USE IN OBSTETRICS, Approved March 19, 2007)

The Michigan Section of ACOG opposes legislation that further imposes upon the practice of medicine. The Legislature has neither the experience nor the flexibility to appropriately adapt such specific rules to the ever changing landscape of medical technology. The decision to use more or less advanced technology to satisfy the medical indications for obstetrical ultrasound imaging should remain squarely in the domain of the physician.